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Item 21 (a) of the provisional agenda

THE REGIONAL DIMENSION: AFRICA (IN PARTICULAR THE SECOND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DECADE FOR AFRICA)

African common position

Submitted by the Director-General

1. The African common position, as contained in resolution 1(XIII), was adopted by the thirteenth Conference of African Ministers of Industry (CAMI), held at Accra, Ghana, in May 1997. The common position was subsequently endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) at its 33rd meeting, held at Harare, Zimbabwe, from 2 to 4 June 1997.

2. In adopting the common position, CAMI requested the Director-General of UNIDO to communicate the report of the thirteenth meeting of CAMI, including the African common position, to all members of UNIDO and to submit it as an official document of the seventh session of the General Conference of UNIDO to be held in Vienna in December 1997.

3. In compliance with paragraph 6 of CAMI resolution 1(XIII), the text of the African common position as adopted at CAMI and the OAU Assembly is contained in the annex to the present document. Owing to financial restrictions, the full report of the meeting is available with the Secretariat only in the original languages of CAMI, namely Arabic, English and French, and can be provided to delegations upon request.

For reasons of economy, this document has been printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of documents to meetings.

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Annex

AFRICAN COMMON POSITION FOR THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, VIENNA, DECEMBER 1997

1. Africa is operating in a completely changing world economy characterized by the transformation of production structures and technologies, the liberalization and globalization of the world economy and integration in he international markets and finance. In response to the economic crisis, African countries have engaged in economic reforms and new policy approaches. These measures are aimed at creating an enabling environment for investments by liberalizing factor and product markets, removing distortions, empowering the private sector, privatizing State-owned enterprises and establishing a rule of law.

2. Africa urgently needs to meet the challenges of domestic development and the reorganization and transformation of its economic sector in order to compete with the other economies of the world. It needs an effective partnership to embark on the path of industrialization and to process its vast natural resources.

3. In this exercise, Africa needs the full cooperation of the international community, especially the developed and developing economies and markets. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which is at a crossroads, is one of the international forums that can fully complement the efforts of the African countries to industrialize. This document advocates the survival and even the reinforcement of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and tries to identify the major elements of a Common African Position for the seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, to be held at Vienna in December 1997.

REFORM OF THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Recognition of reform efforts based on the Yaoundé Declaration

4. Four years ago, the member States of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization requested the Director-General to undertake substantive reforms in order to make it an action-oriented institution and to increase its effectiveness. This meeting recognizes the efforts made so far by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to implement the Yaoundé Declaration, particularly in the reform area.

Implications for Africa of the report of the seventh special session of the Industrial Development Board

5. The African Group supports the common elements on the future role and functions of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization contained in IDB/S.7/Dec.3, annex.

6. Concerning the structure of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the international community should ensure that:

(a) The United Nations Industrial Development Organization remains a specialized and dynamic agency for industrial development;

(b) The United Nations Industrial Development Organization continues to receive adequate financial support for its programmes, particularly for Africa-related programmes;

(c) The African continent is given an adequate role and representation in the management of the future United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

7. The African Group welcomes the priority and emphasis given to the needs of developing countries, particularly African countries and least developed countries.

8. The African Group notes with great appreciation the consistency between the priorities and activities identified in the final report adopted by the seventh special session of the Industrial Development Board and the objectives and thematic priorities in the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization initiative. It further wishes to highlight the promotion of small and medium-scale industries and enterprises, agro-based industries, investment promotion and environment-related services as well as the development of human resources related to the implementation of specific programmes and projects.

9. The African Group supports the decentralization of activities and the strengthening of field representation

advocated by the Industrial Development Board at its seventh special session. To this end, consideration should be given to the establishment of subregional offices in Africa, which should be provided with adequate resources.

THE AFRICAN POSITION ON SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS

Agenda item 14: Development of human resources for industry

10. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should:

(a) Request the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in co-operation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, to deal as a matter of top priority with the development of African indigenous entrepreneurship and increase substantially its support of African governments and African regional institutions dealing with the promotion of industrial and technological manpower. In this context, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization technical assistance programme should give priority to training African entrepreneurs and top industrial managers as well as skilled manpower for industry;

(b) Call upon the developed countries and the newly industrialized ones to support the efforts of the African countries in the training of industrial and technical manpower, especially by providing scholarships for African workers, students and entrepreneurs in the industrial sector;

(c) Call upon African countries and the private sector to focus on programmes and projects for training indigenous entrepreneurs and technical industrial manpower needed for existing industries or industries to be created.

Agenda item 15: Integration of women into industrial development

11. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should:

(a) Reaffirm the importance of the integration of women into industrial development in the context of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization response to sustainable development, as called for in Agenda 21;

(b) Request the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to assist in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action concerning the integration of women in industrial development, to give priority everywhere in Africa to the creation and management of small and medium-scale industries by female entrepreneurs and to intensify cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Organization of African Unity and the African Development Bank in mobilizing the resources needed to implement the related national projects and regional programmes;

(c) Urge all African countries to pass legislation at the national level to remove practices that discriminate against girl children and women and to extend to them equal opportunities in education, training, technology and occupational mobility, thereby promoting their role in industrial development.

Agenda item 6: Environmentally sustainable industrial development

12. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should:

(a) Request the Director-General to enhance the ability of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to render assistance for ecologically sustainable industrial development to developing countries;

(b) Urge the Director-General to seek access to all available resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 in support of ecologically sustainable industrial development;

(c) Request the Director-General to promote United Nations Industrial Development Organization assistance to developing countries in their implementation of international environmental agreements and conventions relating to industry;

(d) Further request the Director-General, in close cooperation with African countries, to take into consideration the following:

(i) The enhancement of the transfer of cleaner production technologies and techniques to developing countries under most favoured nation arrangements;

(ii) The need to promote technical cooperation among developing countries in environment-related matters, particularly those matters that concern the generation and transfer of clean technologies;

(iii) The need to promote the capacity of African countries to produce environmentally sound technologies and to arrest environmental degradation;

(iv) The need to disseminate information on environmental risks and protection.

Agenda item 17: Industrialization of the least developed countries

13. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should:

(a) Appeal to the international community, especially the developed countries, the newly industrialized nations, regional and international financial institutions and direct private investors, to ensure financing for the Industrial Action Programme of Least Developed Countries, as called for in General Conference resolution GC.5/Res.16;

(b) Request the Director-General to ensure effective implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the third Ministerial Symposium on the Industrialization of LDCs, held at Vienna in December 1995, as well as the second Ministerial Symposium on the Industrialization of the Least Developed Countries, held at Yaoundé in December 1993;

(c) Further request the Director-General to continue his full support for the activities of the least developed countries programme and to ensure that this programme is effectively and efficiently implemented;

(d) Also request the Director-General to increase and strengthen field representation in the least developed countries.

Agenda item 18: Private sector development

14. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should:

(a) Call upon African countries to intensify their efforts to create and sustain an enabling environment for private sector development and the growth of private capital inflows, especially in productive activities, by setting up the necessary macro-economic framework, which would emphasize improving infrastructural and human resources development capacities;

(b) Invite African countries to promote and develop a strong and efficient national private sector;

(c) Request the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in close cooperation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity, to elaborate a comprehensive programme of assisting African countries in the creation, promotion and development of indigenous industrial entrepreneurs as well as top industrial managers;

(d) Invite all of Africa's development partners, particularly those in the private sector, to lend their economic, technical and financial support to the economic and industrial development efforts of African countries in the most productive investments.

Agenda item 19: The regional dimension: Africa (in particular the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa)

15. The programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa is a basic framework for coordinating industrialization cooperation efforts in Africa. The just-concluded mid-term evaluation report has shown that a lot of effort and resources are still needed to make the Decade a success. It is therefore expected that the international community will commit itself to achieving the goals of the Decade.

16. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should agree on the following specific measures for accelerating the implementation of the programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa:

(a) The lessons learned from the mid-term evaluation of the programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and the level of project implementation should be fully taken into account;

(b) National programmes for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa should be regularly updated and monitored by national committees in which the private sector is fully involved and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should provide support, on request, for this purpose;

(c) To facilitate the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Decade pro-

grammes, an enabling environment for investment promotion should be provided;

(d) The Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, should hold consultations with the President of the African Development Bank on measures to mobilize financial resources and to improve investment-related aspects of the Decade programme.

17. The seventh session of the General Conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization should invite the Director-General of United Nations Industrial Development Organization to:

(a) Provide, on request, adequate and concrete technical and material support to African countries in order to ensure that the priority programme of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa can be fully implemented, taking into account the corrective measures to be taken after the mid-term evaluation;

(b) Provide concrete technical, material and financial support to African countries in their programmes for promoting, developing and strengthening the indigenous private sector.

18. The seventh session of the General Conference should also request the Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to:

(a) Assist in the preparation and implementation of an expanded programme for entrepreneurial training and development, including, *inter alia*, the preparation of business plans, the development of linkages with foreign enterprises, the dissemination of information, the provision of advanced management training for local entrepreneurs and the development of sustainable institutional facilities for this purpose in Africa;

(b) Provide periodic reports on and evaluations of the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and activities related to programme objectives and achievements, taking into account the resources allocated to the Decade.